

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

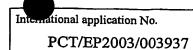
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

A			
Applicant's or agent's file reference P15748	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notific Preliminary	cation of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No.	International filing date (day/n	nonth/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)
PCT/EP2003/003937	15 April 2003 (15.04	.2003)	15 April 2002 (15.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or no H01L 21/00	ational classification and IPC		
Applicant	ERS ELECTRONIC (ЭМВН	
This international preliminary exam Authority and is transmitted to the appropriate	nination report has been preparation according to Article 36.	ared by this	International Preliminary Examining
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	5 sheets, including	g this cover sh	neet.
	ied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets o sis for this report and/or sheets o 507 of the Administrative Instru		on, claims and/or drawings which have ctifications made before this Authority he PCT).
These annexes consist of a to			,
3. This report contains indications relati	ng to the following items:		
I Basis of the report			
II Priority			
III Non-establishment	of opinion with regard to novelty	y, inventive st	ep and industrial applicability
IV Lack of unity of inv			
V Reasoned statement citations and explana	under Article 35(2) with regard ations supporting such statemen	to novelty, in	ventive step or industrial applicability;
VI Certain documents of	ited		
VII Certain defects in the	e international application		
VIII Certain observations	on the international application		
Date of submission of the demand	· Date of c	ompletion of	this report
13 November 2003 (13.11.	j.		uary 2004 (19.01.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorize	ed officer	
Facsimile No.	Telephon	e No.	

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (January 1994)





I. Basis of the report					
1. This under	report r Artic	t has been drawn o le 14 are referred to	on the basis of (in this report as	Replacement sheets 'originally filed'	is which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):
		the international	application as	originally filed.	
	\boxtimes	the description,	pages	1-14	_, as originally filed,
	•		pages		_, filed with the demand,
			pages		_, filed with the letter of,
			pages		_, filed with the letter of
	\boxtimes	the claims,	Nos	1-20	_ , as originally filed,
	<u></u>				, as amended under Article 19,
					, filed with the demand,
			Nos		, filed with the letter of,
					, filed with the letter of
	\boxtimes	the drawings,	sheets/fig	1/5-5/5	_ , as originally filed,
	<u> </u>				_ , filed with the demand,
					, filed with the letter of,
					, filed with the letter of
2. The a	amend	lments have resulte			
		the description,			·
		•			
	•				
3.	This to go	report has been es beyond the discl	stablished as if (osure as filed, a	(some of) the ame as indicated in the	endments had not been made, since they have been considered supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
		-		·	publishing our france . a.m(a)).
4. Addit	ional (observations, if ne	ecessary:		
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Inter	application No.
PCT/EP	03/03937

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement	,		
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following documents:

- D1: US-A-6 099 643 (OHTANI MASAMI ET AL) 8 August 2000 (2000-08-08)
- D2: US-A-5 885 353 (DAVIS SHAWN ET AL) 23 March 1999 (1999-03-23)
- D3: DE 202 05 949 U (ERS ELECTRONIC GMBH) 22 August 2002 (2002-08-22)

Document D1 is considered to constitute the prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1-20 and discloses (the references in parentheses are to that document): a device and a method for conditioning semiconductor substrates.

The subject matter of claims 1-20 therefore differs from the known subject matter in that the tempering fluid is recycled and used to condition the atmosphere of the surrounding space.

The problem addressed by the present invention can thus be considered to be that of achieving a more efficient conditioning of wafers.

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D1 describes a conditioning device but not the passing of a fluid through a receiving system, nor the tempering of the surrounding space with the same.

D2 likewise describes a conditioning arrangement, but the wafer is held therein on the chuck by a vacuum; although an air stream is produced thereby, the fluid stream is not re-used to condition the surrounding space.

The contents of claims 1-20 are therefore novel and inventive in relation to the cited prior art in D1 and D2.

Certain published documents (PCT Rule 70.10):

D3, published on 26 September 2002, relates to a registered design by the same applicant and having the same contents. D3 could become relevant in a later phase.